NEW-YORK
MONTHLY CHRONICLE
OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Dabiturque licentia sumpta pudenter.
Horace.

VOL. I. MAY 1825. No. XI.

Original Department.

I.

On the means of attaining notoriety by Medical Writings.

The motives which induce men to become writers for the public are numerous, and have been the frequent subjects of wit and satire. A disinterested wish to benefit mankind, and an honest and unsullied love of fame—the laudable impulses to which we are indebted for the possession of all that is valuable in science or in art—are feelings confined to the breasts of the chosen few. By far the majority of writers are stimulated by unworthy passions, by the love of gain, the thirst for ephemeral notoriety, the hope of securing a place of profit or honour, or monopolizing an exclusive share of practice. As may be expected, the productions of such men are not remarkable for display of talent, originality of views, or even excellence of diction. The mind constantly occupied with petty schemes of aggrandizement, and warped from right by the temptations of intrigue and cunning, has little leisure to

cultivate science or improve taste by a study of the best models of composition. Insipidity of detail and barrenness of thought, and language by no means distinguished for its accuracy or vigour, are the most frequent characteristics of these men's writings. It is however unnecessary to particularize further in this place, as, in the illustration of the means which they employ to gain their sordid views, we shall have occasion to introduce our readers to a pretty intimate acquaintance with them.

1. One of the most common means which has been resorted to, in the hope of securing notice and commanding attention, has been to address a distinguished individual in the profession, in the form of a letter, with the ostensible object of communicating some interesting medical information. The choice has generally fallen upon some foreigner of note; such as a President of the London Medical Society, or a celebrated writer, who it is presumed will feel so flattered and elated by the unsolicited honour thus conferred upon him, as to treat the writer of the letter with some extraordinary mark of favour. An honorary appointment in a foreign society, or a conspicuous note in the margin of a great work, has often been obtained in this manner. It unfortunately happens at times, that the communication, which ensures all these grateful returns, is not found, upon examination, to contain any facts that are novel, or even any very ingenious speculation; and, in short, that the only remarkable feature about it is, its bearing the name of a great man. There is one example of this kind which has often served to amuse us. It has been published and republished, from time to time, till there is scarcely a journal or text-book in which it is not to be found. Yet we defy any one who has read it, even as many times as it has been reprinted, to point out any one idea in it which is not to be found in the publications of the authors, of whose opinions it purports to be an original abstract. Such an attempt may *gull* an unsuspecting public, but, as far as we have ascertain-

ed, has never advanced, in the remotest degree, the reputation of a single individual.

It is a part of the same system to *beg* for communications from eminent men, and have them published in a journal in the form of a letter, addressed to the communicant. We should not have believed that so much importance was or could be attached to a system of this kind, had we not been casual witnesses of the fact. A letter, addressed to a medical man by a gentleman distinguished in the literary and political world, was republished in a distant journal with the omission of the name of the individual addressed. The indignation excited in the bosom of the offended physician can be conceived by those only who have been made to writhe under equal torments, from jealousy and envy, and the unjust deprivation of the immense honours due to their merits and reputation.

2. Another means is volunteering information to authors about to publish, in the confident expectation that mere gratitude will ensure the magnanimous and disinterested volunteer a favourable notice and conspicuous place in the work about to appear. There are some knight-errants of this kind, who make it part of the business of an active life to discover authors wherever they are to be found, and who are so delighted with the occasional success of their operations, as to consider it the brightest evidence of their medical reputation. Their names may, in general, be found in inaugural addresses, and in systematic compilations. Wo to those who have not discernment to appreciate the merits of these renowned individuals, and either do not mention them at all, or in terms not equal to the conceptions they have formed of their own worth! Not the merit of a Rush would shield them from obloquy, neglect, and detraction.

3. Drawing up cases in your own name which occurred in the practice of other physicians. A more contemptible evidence of the rage for appearing in print could not be adduced than this. What merit can be conceived to accrue from the

promulgation of facts, to detail which the physician in whose experience they occurred, cannot surely be incompetent? Yet for evidence of the value attached to such deeds, look at our journals *passim*.

4. By a secret understanding with some individual in a public office, or with the editor of a newspaper, to be ready, on all interesting occasions, *with a reply* to *information requested*. During the prevalence of an epidemic, say the yellow fever, this class is sure to favour the public with frequent and appropriate outpourings of their sympathy, intermixed with common-place facts and conclusions, known to every tyro in medicine and to every well-educated man as well as to the writer. It sometimes happens that the writer thus consulted, whether through precipitancy or blind prejudice, falls into errors, at once ludicrous and disastrous. Examples will readily occur to the reader if he be at all versed in the history of our epidemics, more particularly in those of 1819 and 1822.

5. A mutual agreement or compact between two or more physicians, to notice and of course puff each other roundly whenever they respectively appear in print. By some individuals this is carried so far, that it is impossible for them to speak of the most trifling fact or opinion without *lugging* in the name of another, from whom they experience the same kind treatment. Thus do they speak of applying a poultice, cold or warm, to an inflamed part, or of administering an injection in constipation of the bowels, they must acquaint the public with the most invaluable fact, that Doctor or Professor *Magnus* has pursued this same treatment for the last thirty years; or if this last be the writer, he must reciprocate, and state that Doctor or Professor *Parvus* has done so and so.

6. Advocating exploded theories for the purpose of exciting attention by singularity. This is, generally, pretty sure in its effects, and notoriety is easily obtained. Where the theory has been entertained by a great name in medicine, it will go hard indeed if some flatterer do not distinguish the singular

individual by applying the great name to him, and thus, it is hoped, to secure him a niche in the temple of fame. It matters not that the theory, thus maintained, is at war with the truths which the advancement of science has fully established. We have heard of intelligent men who still deny that the earth revolves round the sun, and why shall not a physician believe that the human body may be at the same time dead and alive?

7. Advocating *popular* doctrines in opposition to the experience and the reasoning of the whole profession, not excepting that of the writer himself. It requires no little art and boldness, and it must occasion not a few internal struggles, to carry on a scheme of this kind with consistency and firmness. Aware that his sincerity admits of doubt, and perhaps if he has a conscience, stung by its still small voice, he is compelled to work himself into a passion; he denounces opposition by stern and furious appeals to humanity and common sense, and condemns to infamy, and insults with foul imputations, all his brethren who *dare* to differ from him.

Were such a writer to be converted into a public speaker, we can well imagine how he would comport himself; how he would brandish his fists, and exert a stentorian eloquence of voice, and put on terrific frowns of ominous import, enough, to drive away a whole crowd of tremblers. In vain would you look for the calmness of truth, the firm and yet temperate language of conviction, the charms of graceful eloquence, or the skilful address of winning persuasion, that would come home irresistibly to every heart: all would be storm and impetuous fury. But enough.

9. Writing notes to works that are popular, with the view of associating your name inseparably with that of a distinguished writer. In adducing this practice as one of the means employed to gain notoriety, we are by no means opposed to it in toto, or unwilling to believe that it may be done with the purest motives. Witness Rush, who edited some of the great-

est works in medicine with the truly laudable design of introducing them to the notice of the profession in this country, through the powerful influence of his name and recommendation. It is only when we see an individual first ushering himself to notice in this manner, that we complain of it as unblushing effrontery.

10. Dedications have long been made the instruments of elevating men into consequence. "Thank Heaven! affairs have not arrived to that state, at least in this country, to make it necessary for one man to prostitute himself at the footstool of another;" no, nor to say, *we* should have added, that "he feels it an honour to adorn even a fugitive essay with another's name." Some individuals regard a dedication with so much reverence, that they have been even known to write one to themselves. Thus, we have been credibly informed, that a physician, whose ambition was not the most limited, actually wrote an inaugural dissertation for a graduate notoriously incompetent to hold a pen, which was published with a dedication to———himself!!

REVIEW.

ART. I. A PHYSIOLOGICAL ESSAY *on* DIGESTION.—By NATHAN R. SMITH, M. D. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Vermont. New-York. E. Bliss & E. White. 1825. pp. 93.

PHYSIOLOGY, or the science which aims at elucidating the powers and functions of the animal body, is, as Majendie observes, emphatically in its infancy. The causes, which have kept it, standing as it does in the first rank in the

scale of the natural sciences, so far degraded below the level of its sister branches, are referable no less to the obscurity in which it is naturally enshrouded, than to the neglecting of experimental inquiry and inductive reasoning in its early cultivators, for hypotheses and theories the most crude and unphilosophical. Indeed, till the time of Boerhaave, the few facts relating to this science, which were accurately known, were rather the results of accident than of philosophical research; and although the immediate theories of this distinguished philosopher, wanting the substantial support of facts, have long since been exploded, still it is to him that we are indebted for the method which he introduced of investigating the phenomena of the living body, solely by observation and experiment, keeping hypothesis in subjection to these principles.

The floods of light which the genius of Haller shed forth upon this subject, about the middle of the last century, have been succeeded by the united efforts of talent and industry throughout Europe; more particularly in France, fostered by the genial reign of that imperial monarch, the renown of whose military greatness will be less durable than the history of his devotion to the interests of literature, science, and the arts, till now physiology bids fair to rival, as far as from its nature is possible, the perfection of the other branches of natural learning.

In this country we are compelled to lament the small advances which have hitherto been made in physiological researches. Indeed, with the exception of the labours of Rush, and others, connected with the oldest and deservedly the most celebrated institution of medicine in our country; the late Boylston prize essays,* which have received the honour-

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* Boylston Medical Prize Dissertations for the years 1819 and 1821. *Experiments and Observations on the communications between the stomach and urinary organs; and on the propriety of administering medicines by injection into the veins.* By E. Hale, jr. M. D. MSS. Boston. 8vo. pp.

able and unqualified approbation of foreign and native critics; and the work, the title of which stands at the head of this article, it would be difficult to point out a single original idea of importance, in relation to this subject, which has been suggested among us.

An era more favourable to physiological science has, we trust, arrived; and should public patronage and private liberality* be extended, as they have recently been, to the labours of those who have turned their talents and industry to the subject of experimental physiology, we cannot doubt that new discoveries of importance will put an end to the hitherto unanswered taunts of British critics, and recompense the exertions of American genius in this, as it has heretofore done in other branches of medical literature.

The writer of the Essay, which we propose to consider, is a professor in what a city professor styles "one of our comparatively unimportant country medical schools;"† and the pur-

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135. 1821. In pursuing his inquiries upon the last named subject, Dr. H. performed "a most heroic and unique experiment," upon himself, as it is styled by an English writer, by injecting castor oil into one of the veins of his arm.

* While on this subject we cannot deny ourselves the satisfaction of recording our admiration of the liberality of Professor Chapman of Philadelphia, a gentleman who does honour to the profession, no less by his talents and acquirements, than by his liberality,* in having generously afforded from his private resources, funds for the prosecution of an elaborate and extended experimental research into the function of absorption, by Drs. Harlan, Lawrence, and Coates; a report of which, conclusive on the subject, may be found detailed in the Phila. Med. and Physical Journal.

* "O sic si omnes."

† In addition to what was observed, in a former number, in regard to the utility of country medical institutions, we could, in this place, mention a catalogue of works emanating from these sources, which proves alike the talents and devotion of their writers to the cause of science, and would challenge comparison with any other publications which have issued from our press. Such works as the *Treatise on Mineralogy* of Prof. Cleaveland, of Bowdoin College, which has passed through two editions in this

pose of his treatise is to communicate a new and unquestionably original theory in regard to that most important of the functions of the animal economy, *digestion*; questioning, in its very commencement, the commonly received opinions, venerable by age and the great names which have been enlisted in their support. With how much firmness this new edifice will stand the test of future examination and research, time can alone determine. Be its ultimate fate what it may, it will remain an evidence of research, ingenuity, and acquirement, which should call the blush of shame upon some of those veteran professors in medicine, at the trivial additions which have been made to a subject above all others requiring patience, and perseverance of research, and strength of intellect.

Dr. Smith, after some intelligent and well written remarks in relation to the reasoning which should obtain in considering physiological subjects, and an outline of the commonly received theory of digestion by the gastric fluid, commences an examination of the evidence upon which this process rests, and the objections which stand against it. These are drawn from, 1st. The method of reasoning which has been adopted to prove the existence and properties of the gastric juice. Whoever has examined the apparent properties of this supposed extraordinary fluid, its entire inertness when removed from the human stomach, the *a priori* reasoning on which Spallanzani, Chesselden, &c. were led to anticipate its existence and infer its qualities from the effects which were found to be

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country, in a period of time which for a scientific work is unparalleled, and has, it is believed, been republished in Europe; the *Elements of Medical Jurisprudence*, by Dr. Beck, also republished in Great Britain with notes by an eminent lecturer; the various writings of that Nestor in medical science, Prof. Smith (the father of the writer of this treatise), and the respective writings of Drs. Tully, Gallup, Anderson, &c. form a monument in support of these watch-towers on the frontier of science, too durable to be overturned by the blast of envious CALUMNY, or displaced by the puny exertions of imbecile MALICE!

produced on bodies submitted to its action, will need little persuasion to become a convert to any doctrine, which rests more on facts and experiments, and relies less on hypothesis and reasoning *a priori*.

2d. *Changes are in no other instance in the animal economy* (if they are in this) *wrought upon large volumes of matter.* As far as analogical reasoning will hold, in regard to these subjects, this objection must have its weight.

3d. *The variable properties of chyme.* "If," says our author, "the conversion of aliment into chyme be so important a step in the process of animalization, should we not expect to discover some uniform property or quality, which shall give evidence of its having become in a great degree assimilated?" These properties are, in fact, "nothing more than might result from comminution, admixture, and maceration, of the contents of the stomach."

4th. *Chyle not found in the intestines.*

"I will hazard the assertion, however, that there was never a particle of what was *ascertained* to be chyle, obtained from any other source than that of the lacteals or thoracic duct. The existence of chyle in the intestines has been presumed from the belief that the lacteals have no power to effect a change on their contents, and that consequently they were taken up precisely as they are found in them. If this be the case, the conclusion is palpably false, for who can say that the lacteals have no peculiar actions by which their contents are wrought upon?"

5th. *Objections from the anatomy of the parts concerned.*

"The villi or papillæ of the stomach are, in their structure, essentially the same as those of the small intestines. No material difference in their organization can be pointed out, and yet we are told, that their offices are diametrically opposite, that of the villi of the stomach being to exhale the gastric juice, while those of the intestines absorb the chyle."

The size, structure, and situation of the thoracic duct, its want of appendages capable of performing a vicarious office, the *unity* of this vessel when all other important organs of the body exist in pairs, seem to prove that its functions are not so

all-important to the animal system as they are represented in the common treatises on digestion.

6th. *Nutrient effects of aliment.* The immediate feeling of renewed strength upon breaking a long fast, which is commonly explained upon *nervous sympathy*, as the process of assimilation, is said not to commence until more than an hour after eating, forms a strong argument in favour of this new theory.

After mentioning the objections to the received theory, some of the more important of which we have named, referring, however, to the work itself for a more ample consideration of them, our author, in his third chapter, which he heads *Digestion by the veins of the stomach and intestines, and by the liver*, gives his ideas on this function.

"My proposition is," says our author, "that the first step in the process of digestion is effected by capillary veins, originating in the villi of the stomach with absorbing extremities, and terminating in the great branches of the vena portæ. The arguments in favour of it are drawn from the results of certain experiments, from the nature of the change effected on the aliment, from the analogy of plants with animals and from the anatomy and pathology of the digestive organs."

The absorption of solids, by the venous system, has been determined in a manner so satisfactory in Europe and this country, that it would be a work of supererogation to give the evidence upon which it is grounded, as it would afford strong proof of obstinacy and stupidity to doubt it.

We shall quote the remarks of our author on this subject:

"Again, if the veins of the stomach absorb any fluid substances except mere water, we do no violence to reason to say that they will, in some way or other, take up such substances as are insoluble, so far as we know, by any thing contained in the stomach. Most physiologists believe, that certain medicinal substances which are insoluble, are, nevertheless, taken into the circulation by the absorbents. The fact appears to me to be supported by abundant proof. We know also, very well, that the bones and other

solid parts of the system, are sometimes taken up by either the absorbents or veins, with surprising rapidity. In some instances, the most intractable substances, when lodged in the flesh, have been absorbed and removed. Plants, by their roots, decompose the soils on which they feed, and take up substances which are the most insoluble in nature.*

"How it is that these phenomena are accomplished, we cannot say. Perhaps they may be taken up in a state of extreme comminution, and perhaps they may be resolved, by the powers of life, into their ultimate, or in some instances, their proximate principles.

"That our food, solid or fluid, should be taken up by the veins of the stomach, with sufficient rapidity to be subservient to digestion, is certainly not absurd. Vascular and nervous as the stomach is, we are to presume that its vital energies, in this respect, are far superior to those of any other tissues in the system. The surface too, which it presents to the food, when we consider its folds and its papillæ, must be very great.

"The villi of the intestines are known to perform absorption with great energy, and that of a substance which does not appear to be altogether fluid. The villi of the stomach are certainly more numerous than those of the intestines and, a priori, we might fairly presume, from their anatomical structure, that they performed the same function with greater energy."

"*Sensible properties of chyme.*

"The sensible properties of chyme I have already mentioned as furnishing arguments against the opinion in question. They are not less important in the support which they yield our hypothesis. On the supposition that the villi of the stomach act upon the aliment as suggested above, electing from it such principles as are subservient to nutrition, the appearances of the chyme are precisely what we should expect. The sensible properties of chyme suggested to some of the older anatomists the idea that the aliment was, in the stomach, attacked by a myriad of small worms which reduced it to the uniform pulpy mass of this substance.†

"That this may be effected by a myriad of absorbing mouths, the changes which take place in the aliment render not improbable. An extremely minute mechanical division would of course be effected upon it, and perhaps

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"* I would observe, that this analogy is not objectionable on the ground that it is drawn from another kingdom. The organic functions are common to both plants and animals."

"† Perhaps they were as near the truth as those who consider the process to be performed by a chemical agent, for neither the existence of these wonderful worms, nor of the not less wonderful fluid can be proved, and if we reason from the effect alone, we should with more propriety ascribe it to the former."

many substances would be decomposed, some of their proximate principles being taken up."

"*Effects of division of the eighth pair of nerves.*

"The results of the experiments of W. Philip harmonize much more perfectly with the opinion which we offer, than with the theory of solution. In mentioning the phenomena which result from the division of the eighth pair of nerves, we could not but admire how the process of digestion should be immediately suspended, even although the food in the stomach be imbued with the gastric liquor; particularly, as it is stated by the advocates of the latter theory, that the gastric fluid does, after death, corrode the walls of the stomach. If the most important influence exerted on the food is by the absorbing powers of the villi, and if the villi receive their power to act, as they undoubtedly do, from the eighth pair of nerves, the difficulty is at once solved."

The analogy between vegetables and animals and *the digestion of certain inferior animals*, as the Polypi, &c. are offered by our author as affording a presumption on this subject.—In respect to the process of assimilation, Dr. S. considers it as accomplished in the capillary and other vessels through which the aliment is made to pass before it is added to the circulating mass of the blood.

"It is obvious that whatever is absorbed by the veins of the stomach will be first conveyed through the tissue of vessels indefinitely minute, which may be said to compose the villi of the organ; next through the branches which ramify in the cellular coat, through the long tortuous vessels of sensible magnitude meandering upon the surface of the stomach and between the laminæ of the peritoneum.

"This, however, is not the most interesting part of its course. On reaching the trunk of the vena portarum, along which it is slowly propelled, probably by the action of that vessel, it is conveyed to the great fissure of the liver, to be diffused through that large and important viscus, having first been mingled with the returning blood of the spleen, the pancreas, the omentum, &c. It is then again subjected to the action of a congeries of capillaries constituting the substance of the liver.

"Here, then, is an ample opportunity for all those changes to be wrought, which may be deemed necessary for the conversion of aliment into blood. This supposition, too, accords well with what we observe in the performance of other functions, by which changes are wrought in the properties of circulating fluids, viz. that they are accomplished not upon large vo-

lumes and in large reservoirs, but upon attenuated streams and in minute vessels.

"I have heretofore objected to the prevailing theory, that it does not appreciate the importance of the liver, nor attribute to it an office corresponding to its magnitude, structure, and pathological consequence. The hypothesis which we offer exalts it to the highest degree of physiological importance, regarding it as, perhaps, the most efficient organ concerned in animalization."

The phenomena of the fœtal circulation also afford evidence of what our author has advanced with regard to the functions of the liver and *vena portarum;* but for these we are unwillingly obliged to refer to the book itself, as we must conclude by quoting some objections which our author candidly introduces and attempts to do away, which are as follows:

"The arguments which would seem to oppose the opinions which I have endeavoured, in the foregoing pages, to substantiate, are many of them the same which favour the theory of solution by the gastric fluid. I have already attempted a refutation of them. Other difficulties, which appear to arise from the structure of the organs concerned in this function, I have endeavoured to solve. There are some, however, which present themselves, of which we have not found occasion to speak.

"It might, perhaps, be thought that if the veins of the stomach, in addition to their transmitting the blood which they receive from the arteries, do also absorb and convey so great a volume of aliment, they should be found in greater number, in proportion to the arteries, than in other organs.

"In reply, it is only necessary to call to mind that the arteries of the stomach during digestion are exhaling as great a volume of fluid as is absorbed by the veins. Here we may notice, too, in the supposition, an interesting correspondence of action which supports the doctrine of venous absorption.

"That the arteries of many organs copiously exhale, no one doubts.—That the veins absorb is not so demonstrable; but when we take into consideration the relation between the arteries and veins, that the arteries convey the blood *from* the centre of the system, and that the veins *return* it, absorption is certainly the function which, in the veins, corresponds to exhalation of the arteries.

"That we shall be able to prove or disprove the function which I attribute to the villi of the stomach, by comparing the weight of the food taken

in, with what remains at the time that it begins to be transmitted to the intestines, I think very doubtful. Its consistence is, as we have stated, entirely changed, and its volume and weight are so much increased by the exhaled fluids, that the removal of its more nutrient parts might not be appreciable.

"The cases of mal-formation, related by Abernethy and Lawrence, would, at first view, operate against our hypothesis. I think, however, that they are capable of an explanation which gives it additional weight. It will be remembered that the hepatic artery, in these cases, was much larger than usual. Now it is obvious, that the whole mass of blood must have been in a short time subjected to the action of the liver. Usually the aliment is conveyed by the vena portæ to be acted upon by the liver before it is added to the mass of the blood. In the above cases there is this difference, that the aliment must first have been mingled with the mass of the blood, after having undergone the action of the absorbing veins of the stomach and intestines, before it was acted upon by the liver.

"These cases, then, bear a striking resemblance to those of mal-formation of the heart, in which life is for a long time supported, although but a small proportion of blood passes through the lungs. The spleen and the pancreas would, probably, under such circumstances, vicariously assist the liver."

Such is this new theory of digestion. Involved as this subject necessarily must be in the mist of uncertainty, a long series of experimental researches can alone demonstrate its truth. As it now stands, we freely give it as our opinion, that it rests on evidence more conclusive, and on reasoning more satisfactory, than many of those theories which have so long maintained an almost unquestioned ascendancy in the medical world, and have formed the foundation of pathological and therapeutical systems.

In concluding this subject, we take leave of our readers by recommending them to "read, compare, and judge;" and of our author with our heartiest thanks for his ingenious and (as we consider them) successful efforts in the cause of physiological science, and our belief that he is capable of exalting his own reputation and that institution with which he is connect-

ed,* by the application of talents and industry like his in physiological pursuits.

The American Medical and Philosophical Register, or Annals of Medicine, Natural History and the Arts. Conducted by a society of gentlemen. 4 vols. New-York, 1811, 12, 13, 14.

It was our intention long before this to have presented our readers with retrospective notices concerning some of the earlier medical Journals which have been published in this country. A variety of circumstances have hitherto prevented us from carrying this intention into execution. We propose commencing at present a series of articles of this nature, by a brief review of the "American Medical and Philosophical Register," a work which we have selected for our first notice, not because it was superior, or even equal to some other cotemporary Journals, but because its history is more curious than that of any other of which we have any knowledge.

Before entering into an examination of the work itself, it may be proper to give some account of its editors. By examining the title page of the Journal, as it was originally published during four years, it will be seen that it purported to be "*conducted by a society of gentlemen.*" Who this society was, we do not precisely know; but the principal writers

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* Dr. Smith has recently, we are informed, accepted of the anatomical chair in the medical institution recently organized at Philadelphia, under the auspices of Washington College. This new institution, possessing the acknowledged talents of Dr. Eberle, so well known for his treatise on Therapeutics, Dr. M'Cleland, distinguished for his talents and acquirements in surgical science, and the writer of this essay, together with some other gentlemen whose names we have not yet heard, bids fair to become one of the most respectable and valuable institutions of the kind in our country; and, as adding one more to the numerous streams of science with which our land is already enriched, demands the co-operation and countenance of the profession.

were the late Dr. Hugh Williamson, William Coleman, Esq. editor of the Evening Post, Dr. David Hosack, and Mr. Thomas Eddy. In the year 1814, after its publication had been stopped, and the work was almost forgotten, it was again brought forward with a *new title page*, bearing the names of Dr. Hosack and Dr. Francis as editors, and purporting to be a *second edition*. In the advertisement to this *pretended* second edition, it is stated that "a new edition of the earlier part of the work having been called for, the editors have embraced this opportunity of *assuming* the *responsibility* of the undertaking, and of appearing before the public in their proper persons." That this was indeed an *assumption* on the part of Drs. Hosack and Francis, we are willing to admit; and the reason which they assign for the measure is as curious as it is original. "They have adopted this measure," say they, "because they consider that a periodical journal, of the nature of the Register, derives its principal importance and value from the *authenticity of its materials*; [rare discovery] and they thus pledge themselves for the verity of the facts, which in their editorial capacity, they have recorded." This is all really very good and kind in the assumed editors, but with what feelings it would be received by the contributors to the journal, we cannot exactly say. It is well known that in a periodical work, such as the Register, most of the articles have the names of the writers attached to them, and we should not look upon it as a very delicate compliment to such men as Drs. Williamson, Chisholm, &c. for Drs. Hosack and Francis, or any other editors, to pledge themselves for their veracity. With this, however, we do not wish to have any thing to do. Our principal object is, to expose the circumstances connected with this *pretended second edition*. To every person at all acquainted with the Register when it was published, it is a familiar fact that its circulation was exceedingly limited, perhaps more so than any other medical journal ever attempted in this country, and that

it never enjoyed any peculiar reputation. For the editors, therefore, to pretend "that a new addition was called for," is absurd. But it is not merely absurd to pretend that a second edition was called for, it is *not a fact that such second edition was ever printed.* From the irregularity of the paging, from the pasteing in of the title page, and other marks of internal evidence, we are ready to show that the title page and prospectus were the only parts reprinted, and that this was the whole of the *new* edition, which bears the name of John W. Francis, as professor of materia medica, when in fact he was only a student of medicine at the time of its publication. The new edition, however, was not lost.

A large number of copies of it were shortly after carried abroad, by a person, who had been found very useful in such services, for the purpose of procuring, for a certain individual, the high and distinguished honour of being elected a member of a famous society, whose foreign honours had hitherto been conferred only on the *real* benefactors of science and learning. With what admirable success the adventure was crowned is well known to the public; and while we are willing to give full credit to the dexterous manipulations of the agent employed, we cannot but coincide with the general opinion expressed at the time, as well as afterwards, that it was discreditable to the country, as well as to the individual concerned, thus to impose upon the credulity of the English, and by trick and artifice to gain honours known to be undeserved.

So much for the "*Society of Gentlemen*" who conducted the American Medical and Philosophical Register. We shall now proceed to a brief analysis of the character and contents of this journal, and for this purpose we shall take it up by subjects; and first, of *Yellow Fever.* On this subject the editors tell us in their prospectus, with becoming candour, that "it will be one of the principal objects of their labours to combat the theories and opinions which many of those works [medical journals of the United States] have disseminated to

the discredit of our country, and *perhaps* to the loss of many valuable lives." With these charitable feelings and kindly expressions concerning the profession, the "Society of Gentlemen" commenced the task of illuminating the age, on those so long and fiercely agitated questions—the origin and propagation of yellow fever. Papers on this subject, from various hands, accordingly appeared in successive numbers of the journal. The *medical* contributors to this part of the work, were few in number and exceedingly unimportant in the quality of their matter. This was as might have been expected. The more intelligent part of the profession had already become enlightened on this important point, and nothing sufficiently respectable for the public eye could be obtained from the few who, from education or mere vulgar prejudice, still clung to the falling doctrines of contagion. To supply this lamentable deficiency, every sort of extrinsic aid was impressed into the service. Clergymen, lawyers, merchants and old nurses, were promiscuously called into the field to back the pledge given by the "Society of Gentlemen." We have, accordingly, "facts relative to the contagious nature of yellow fever in the pure air of the country,"—by the Rev. R. C. Moore. We have an "account of the origin of the yellow fever which prevailed in the city of New-York in the summer of 1798"—by the Rev. John M'Knight, D. D. We have "facts relative to the contagious nature of the yellow fever in the pure air of the country"—by David Hosack, M. D. &c. As the Dr. tells us, that these facts he obtained "from Mrs. Dorothy Conklin, the present wife of Mr. Richard Conklin, who resides at West Neck," we think this good lady is entitled to all the credit of this contribution. We have "conjectures respecting the native climate of pestilence—by an Observer;" and "conjectures respecting the origin of endemic fevers—by a Serious Inquirer." The most copious contributor, however, on the subject of yellow fever was Mr. Coleman, editor of the Evening Post. By him was written the elaborate review of Dr. Edward Miller's Report, as also most of the

anonymous articles, which appeared on this subject, under the head of "Intelligence." It is due to this gentleman to state, that his articles are by far the best written, both as to matter and manner, of any that appeared in the journal, and that it was to them, mainly, that it was indebted for any character which it may have enjoyed. As a disputant, versed in the arguments in favour of contagion, and dexterous in their management, Mr. Coleman showed a decided superiority over any of the medical contributors who appeared in the journal. The foregoing statement we have conceived to be due to Mr. Coleman and to truth, inasmuch as the papers from the pen of this gentleman, and more especially his review of Dr. Miller, have been very generally attributed to Dr. Hosack. From the standing which Dr. H. holds in society we can hardly suppose, for a single moment, that he can have been accessary to an imposition of this sort. We know, indeed, that in his lectures to his class he speaks very largely of a certain review which he wrote of Dr. Miller, and in which, he says, the poor Dr. was so severely handled that he never dared open his mouth afterwards. "I threw down the gauntlet, gentlemen," says he, "and none of them dared to take it up." All this, however, must have related to some other review than that of which we have been speaking: probably some manuscript, which has never yet been published, and which we may still hope to see in the third volume of Medical Essays, which Dr. H. will, no doubt, publish as soon as the two first volumes are *sold*.

In concluding their journal, the editors, with much self-complacency, state, that "the numerous facts which have been stated on this head [yellow fever] have never been attempted to be contradicted; and the theory, as adduced from these facts, which has been maintained concerning the origin and nature of this disease has not, in any respect, been refuted, even by our warmest opponents, though repeatedly challenged to the contest. The best evidence of the value of our labours

is the approbation with which they have been received both at home and abroad." All this is very complimentary to be sure, but as to the truth of it we are not quite so thoroughly convinced. We are yet to learn where this high "approbation" was expressed. Sure we are, that in this country no body ever heard of it; and the fact, that the Register, after dragging out a feeble existence for four years, was obliged to be discontinued, is certainly no very striking proof of the "approbation" with which it was received. But it is time for us to notice some other portions of the Register.

Hydrophobia. On this subject there is an interesting letter from Dr. Rush, in relation to blood-letting in this disease; another from Dr. Thacher, and a third from Dr. Hosack. This latter is particularly curious, inasmuch as the learned Dr. differs from his friend, Dr. Coleman, with regard to the efficacy of *skullcap*, asserting that he has "seen no evidence sufficient to give confidence in it as an antidote to that most deadly disease." After rejecting the skullcap, Dr. H. gives his approbation to the remedy of his friend, Dr Crous, a gentleman very distinguished in the history of this state: "The remedy *which of all others* I should be inclined," says Dr. H., "to try upon a patient of mine, is that of Crous, purchased sometime since by the State of New-York." Amer. Med. and Phil. Reg. vol. i. p. 463. The remedy of Crous, it will be recollected, consisted of a Queen Ann's farthing, the tongue of the foal of an ass, and several other ingredients of a similar character.

[To be continued.]

SELECTIONS.

Panic Fever.—The influence of mind on matter is now so well known that Dr. Hamilton needed not repeat the old story of the Prince of Orange curing the Breda Garrison of scurvy, by a few phials of water, introduced as a specific for that disease. He might have quoted, if not "wise saws," at least more "modern instances," illustrative of the panic which spread its baneful influence over the sensitive minds of the Magdalenes of Edinburgh. The fact, however, which is recorded by Dr. Hamilton, is interesting, and we shall present a short account of it to our readers.

On visiting the Magdalen Asylum, on the 2d of April, 1821, our author found that a girl who had gone, in her usual health, to the washtub in the morning, was now in bed, having been seized with the usual symptoms of fever. There was an epidemic at the time in the town; and contemplating the possibility of *infection*, Dr. H. had the patient sent to the sick room—her clothes immersed in water—and her room ventilated and locked up. Next day, the fever continuing, she was sent to Queensberry-House, and *fumigation* added to the other prophylactic measures. On the 3d day, two other girls were added to the list, and conveyed to the same destination, the precautionary measures, including the fumigating incantation, being again put carefully in force. We quite agree with Dr. Hamilton, that "the *anxious* employment of these precautions probably attracted the attention and awakened the fears of the inmates, who, cut off from intercourse with the world, are peculiarly alive to all that takes place within the walls of the institution." A decided alarm now spread among the women, heightened by the idea that the fever had crept into the asylum with the clothes that were sent there to be washed. 4th day, three others had sickened early in the morning, and eight more in a few hours afterwards. All these were sent off to the hospital—all apparently very ill, some with cold tremors, others with flushed face and full pulse, some with nausea, head-ache, vomiting, &c. The linen was drowned, the rooms fumigated, and every thing done to destroy the *contagion* of a few women taken suddenly ill, and where there was no time for the generation of a particle of contagion, in whatever way the fever might have been first introduced. Next day (5th day) our author visited those sent to the hospital. "They all appeared decided cases of idiopathic fever." In the evening of the same day, the panic fever had spread to eight more of the Magdalenes. Thus, in four days, 22 out of a community of 50 individuals became stricken with fever. "The minds of the most stout-hearted in the house, not excepting the (*medical!*) superintendants, participated in the alarm." Dr. Hamilton, however, emanci-

pated himself from the thraldom of fear—went to the sick-room—and, in decided language, pronounced the whole to be a delusion—"that they were yielding to their fears alone, and getting ill merely because others had done so before them." The tide of opinion now turned, and set briskly in an opposite direction. "Of the eight patients then in the sick-room, several recovered in the course of the same night." Next morning some of them took to their employments, and seven out of the eight were all at their usual occupations in a few days. None of the inmates sickened for three weeks after this period, when some of those that were first sent to the hospital having returned and relapsed, two or three fresh cases occurred, when all was well again.

We agree with our author in his conclusions; but we think he must acknowledge that, if to him the merit of checking the panic fever belongs—so also does the charge of first contributing to spread it by the ultra and unnecessary measures put in force to destroy the phantom contagion, existing only in his imagination.—*Johnson's Quarterly Review.*

Gastritis—or Softening, Extenuation, and Destruction of the Mucous Membrane of the Stomach.—M. Louis, of Paris, has lately published a paper on this subject, in the *Archives Generales* for May—much more minute and refined, we fear, than useful or practical. Some instruction, however, is to be gleaned from it, and this we shall convey in as few words as possible. Twelve cases are detailed as the basis of the author's inferences and reflections. We shall notice the *post-mortem* appearances before the history or symptoms.

Autopsic Phenomena.—The stomachs presented nothing particular externally. Internally there were sometimes patches of a pale white, but much more frequently of a blue colour. The mucous membrane, in the points corresponding with these appearances, was very thin and soft, transformed, as it were, into a glairy mucus. These spots were sometimes rounded and continuous—sometimes disposed in long and narrow bands. A slight examination would have led to the idea that, in these places, the mucous coat was entirely destroyed—and frequently there was actual destruction, but to a very small extent, of the membrane. Various degrees of this lesion, from slight extenuation to entire destruction of the mucous coat, were sometimes observed in the same stomach—exhibiting the progress of spontaneous perforation. These phenomena were sometimes detected in the lining membrane of the œsophagus, at its lower portion.

Symptoms.—In most of the individuals there had been derangement of the digestive organs for a considerable period previously. The digestion had been disordered—and, in many cases, there had been wasting of the flesh, and loss of appetite. In some, there were pains in epigastrio, acidities, &c. The *immediate* symptoms were great diminution of appetite—

gastralgia—shivering, followed by heat, thirst, and after a period, varying from a few days to a month or two, nausea and vomiting. These symptoms remained till death, sometimes permanent, most commonly intermittent. The only *invariable* symptom was nausea—in nine out of the twelve there was vomiting—in eleven out of twelve there was epigastric pain. The appearances of the tongue were various and uncertain. In four out of the twelve patients, it was natural. *Diarrhœa* existed in the majority of the cases—and also *phthisis*. Its progress varied from a few weeks to many months. The diagnosis can only, if at all, be gathered from the symptomatology. The *nature* of the disease appears to be inflammatory—sometimes acute, sometimes chronic. In respect to *prognosis*, little can be said—as in no case was the disease seen uncomplicated—in the majority of instances it was secondary of a mortal affection, *phthisis*, for example. Its causes are totally unknown.

We have thus given a short account of a paper which has occupied many pages of our foreign and domestic cotemporaries. As we said in the outset, we do not think it likely to contribute much towards the advancement either of pathology or therapeutics. It bears, however, on the subject of Dr. Gairdner's preceding paper.—*Ib.*

Hepatic Phthisis.—That hepatic disease often stimulates, and what is worse, often produces disease in the lungs, must be known experimentally by every attentive practitioner. But the difficulty of ascertaining when real disease of the pulmonary structure has actually commenced, can only be known to those who watch with zeal and assiduity the phenomena of disease in the living body, and mark well the ravages which it leaves in the organized structures after death.

The subject of the present paper was a married lady, about 35 years of age, who, for some years, had been afflicted with severe pains in the stomach, for which aromatic tinctures, ether, and even opium were had recourse to. She was of temperate habits, apparently scrofulous, and had borne children. At length a teazing cough came on, with dyspnœa and occasional hæmoptysis, followed by evening fever and night sweats. Previously to our author's attendance, she had had head-ache and hemiplegia, but from these she was entirely recovered. She was considered as phthisical, and ordered milk diet and country air. This was in 1804, when Sir T. M. first saw her. On examination he was struck with the absence of any emaciation or acceleration of pulse. He found nearly the entire of the convex surface of the liver indurated and uneven to the touch. "Both lobes were evidently diseased." She complained of acute pain in the right acromion and between the scapulæ—tongue furred—bowels slow—catamenia regular. For the present she was advised to remain in the country—to regulate the bowels with senna and tartarised soda, and to use camomile tea acidulated with sul-

phuric acid. After some months she returned to town (Roscommon) much improved in appearance. Still she had recurrences of the hæmoptysis; but as this was considered as merely symptomatic, half a drachm of mercurial ointment was ordered to be rubbed in every night on the right side.—When about an ounce of the ointment had been used, a smart mercurial fever prevented its further exhibition, the gums being slightly affected. She soon recovered from this; but a considerable period elapsed before the remedy could be resumed, (for what reason is unknown.) The interval had been spent in Dublin, under the care of Dr. Plunkett, who tried the nitric acid and saline bitters, without any advantage. After a period of seven months the head-aches returned—the vessels of the eye became turgid—the pupils permanently contracted on the application of light—with sense of swimming and confusion in the head. These symptoms were soon followed by another attack of hemiplegia, which soon gave way to leeches, blisters, &c. At the solicitation of the patient, Sir T. M. was induced again to try mercury, after an interval of twelve months from its former exhibition. A recurrence of febrile irritation and sharp pain in the side again suspended the use of mercury. The side was relieved by leeching. During the two subsequent years the patient had frequent hæmorrhages from the lungs. One night, at midnight, our author was called up to witness the following phenomena:—

"The mouth gaped open, the lower jaw hung, as if dislocated, on the sternum, with such sudden agitations of it against the upper one, as imparted a tremulous motion to the whole body and bed. This gaping posture sometimes continued for minutes, and presented to the eye all the appearance of dislocation.

"Liniments with laudanum, ether, camphorated spirits of wine, and turpentine, were tried without any advantage. It at length occurred to me that pressure on that twig of the third branch of the fifth pair of nerves; which passes through the foramen at the chin, might be beneficial; the experiment succeeded, the oscitation having immediately ceased. On removal of pressure it again returned, but was stopped by permanent pressure; a silver coin was kept on by a bandage.

"This vibrating oscitation returned frequently at subsequent periods, but was always removed by the same means, which the patient herself was now in the habit of applying."

Our author now determined to adopt a merely palliative treatment. The side was generally relieved, for a time, by leeches, and the head by blisters. At length she was attacked with severe paroxysms resembling asthma, from which she was always relieved by assafœtida glysters and tincture of senna. These usually brought away much bilious and slimy fæces. The liver still continuing apparently to be diseased, mercury was a third time resorted to, and with the same effects as before. The physician now resolved to leave the complaint to nature, merely keeping the bowels soluble. "During the

following year she had frequent shiverings; the induration of the side felt softer, and more elastic, and suppuration appeared evidently to have taken place. She was at length seized with symptoms of dysentery; the side became more flaccid and shrunk: the tormina and tenesmus were excruciating. Frequent enemas, and purgatives of calomel and cathartic extract, brought off incredible quantities of fetid, sanious, and purulent matter: quantities of pus were also suspended in the urine, which produced much irritation in its passage through the urethra. In some weeks the dysenteric symptoms abated in violence; but for a period of more than a year, evacuations of purulent matter, and with it quantities of a gritty substance, like coarse sand, continued to pass by stool; any delay of it in the rectum excited torture, and required constant enemas and brisk purgatives for its removal.

"The pulse, which hitherto showed little variation, now lost its intermission; the primary, as well as secondary symptoms of her disease, gradually disappeared; but extreme debility succeeded, which neither tonics, generous diet, or change of air, could prevent from increasing. The blood appeared deoxygenated, and the capillary vessels to have lost their tone. The surface of the body became covered with large purple ecchymoses; blood flowed from the uterus, the rectum, the lips, the nose and the skin, and the legs swelled; to these bandages were applied; the mineral acids were given abundantly in water, or infusion of roses or cinchona, as the state of the stomach admitted, and claret was given in a reasonable proportion. Under this plan she rallied surprisingly, and was enabled to take exercise in a carriage; this was in 1813. After some months of gradual recovery, she persuaded her husband to reside in Dublin, where, after a short residence, she expired."

The above is certainly a remarkable case. There can be little doubt, we think, that both the cerebral and thoracic symptoms were sympathetic of the diseased liver; but we consider it quite a misnomer to call the disease hepatic phthisis. Hepatic *hæmoptysis* it might have been at one time; but assuredly there were no evidences, that we can see, of *phthisis* in any stage of the complaint. One remark more and we have done. Where the liver is so disorganized as to be felt indurated and knotty by the hand, it is madness to exhibit mercury, with the view of salivation. Local depletion and continued counter irritation, with gentle aperients, and slight alterative doses of mercury will do far more than salivation.—*Ib.*

Purulent Ophthalmia of Infants.—Mr. Ryall, by the most persevering industry, and no inconsiderable talent, has established, for several years past, a National Ophthalmic Infirmary in Dublin, and raised for himself an unquestionable reputation in the line of practice to which he has attached himself. And now, that the main difficulties of his undertaking are over-

come, we are glad to see him employ an occasional leisure hour in laying before the profession some of the results of his experience.

The purulent ophthalmia of infants, or acute inflammation of the conjunctiva, consigns to irremediable blindness, by its unfavourable termination, many children annually. The patients brought to the Eye-Institution affected with this disease, are, for the most part, the offspring of the very poorest class—and, many of them, those born in the Lying-in-Hospital. The mothers too often neglect to apply for medical aid till all hope of affording relief is fled. Some do not come till protrusion of the iris has taken place. One woman lately brought, in a wine-glass, both the lenses of the infant's eyes, with part of the vitreous humour which had escaped before application was made for relief. Mr. Ryall is of opinion, notwithstanding authority to the contrary, that the disease in question is communicated to the infant at the time of birth, by some morbid secretion of the mother. However this may be, the power which the ophthalmic discharge afterwards possesses of communicating the ophthalmia, is indisputable. Mr. R. had, at the time of writing, several nurses under his care, in whom the ophthalmia had been caused by the accidental application of the discharge from the infant's eyes to their own. Our author is likewise of opinion that the ophthalmia produced by gonorrhœal is more violent than that resulting from leucorrheal matter—and more apt to be attended with excessive tumefaction of the palpebræ—chemosis—profuse and ill-conditioned discharge, with rapid tendency to disorganization. In comnon ophthalmia, the disease often begins in one eye when it is on the wane in the other, from sympathy —but, in the disease now under consideration, if one eye escaped the first inoculation, and was afterwards carefully guarded from contact with the discharge from the other, it escaped altogether.

This ophthalmia, like gonorrhœa, will, in many instances, yield readily to very simple treatment, nay, will even sometimes spontaneously cease. This lulls to a dangerous security.

"Assuming it as a principle, that the destructive progress of the disease is influenced more by the specific virulence of the inoculating fluid, than by any other cause, and my great object being to subdue its action on the secretory surface, I have an earlier recourse to stimulants than the mere definition of acute inflammation would appear to indicate, or than might be deemed expedient by those who 'consider the discharge merely as a symptom, and that neither the process of restoration is materially affected, nor the organ in any way endangered by its continuance.'

"By this early substitution of the stimulant and mildly astringent for emollient applications, I have known the discharge to have been suppressed, and the progress of the disease consequently arrested, in very many cases which, experience and analogy warrant me in saying, would have otherwise terminated unfavourably, or at best have been protracted for several weeks: indeed, the very character of the inflammation would warn us against the long use of emollients.

"The purulent ophthalmia of infants shows itself generally within four or five days after birth, in redness of the conjunctiva lining the palpebræ, and in a thin discharge, which, if permitted to rest on the cilia, agglutinates them so firmly, as to require some degree of force to separate them; in effecting which, a copious flood of tears gushes forth. These appearances are usually accompanied with great impatience of light, feverish heat, exacerbated in the evenings, and not unfrequently with fits. In a short time the dichargee becomes puriform, when there is a remission of the pyrexia, the conjunctiva becomes greatly distended, exhibiting, as has been observed, the appearance of red velvet. The eye-lids are now so much swoln, that in the attempt to examine the eye, the orbiculares muscles are everted, requiring even force to replace them, and mechanical aid to retain them *in situ*. The bowels, if neglected, either remain costive, or discharge mucous, or frothy and greenish stools."

Although the disease will now sometimes cease spontaneously, we have much more reason to dread bad consequences, as the death of the cornea, protrusion of the iris, escape of the humours, sinking of the eye, or, what is worse, troublesome and disgusting staphyloma—all which, in almost every instance, might be prevented by early and proper attention.

"If recourse be had in the early stage of the disease to medical aid, (which, as has been deplored, particularly with the poor, is too seldom the case,) the treatment is then indicated by the definition of 'acute inflammation.' A leech or two, according to the strength of the patient and urgency of the symptoms, are to be applied to the under lid. The eye is to be frequently fomented with a decoction of white poppy heads, which should also be injected between the palpebræ; and, as well to prevent agglutination of the cilia, as to correct the morbid secretion of the tarsi, an ointment, consisting of one part of the ointment of the nitrate of quicksilver, and seven parts of that of spermaceti, should be applied to them twice or thrice a-day. A grain each of the submuriate of mercury and of James's powder should be given every night, at bed-time, and a tea-spoonful of castor oil every, or every seeond morning. The lower extremities, and if fits occur, the whole body should be daily emerged in a tepid bath; and the apartment in which the patient resides, if it be practicable, well ventilated, since foul air, and crowded situations, are peculiarly favourable to the malignancy, and perhaps to the propagation of the disease."

When the discharge has passed into a more virulent form, becoming profuse and thin, assuming a deep yellow or greenish colour, it is then time to adopt a different mode of treatment. Various collyria have been recommended, and doubtless have proved useful, but our author has found none so efficacious in changing the action of the secretory membrane, and arresting the progress of the disease as a solution of the nitrate of silver (the crystallized nitrate as being more pure than the fused) in proportion of two or three grains of the mineral to the ounce of simple distilled water, fre-

quently and briskly injected between the lids with a silver or ivory syringe. All warm fomentations and cataplasms should now be laid aside; but if tumefaction of the palpebræ continue, a cold cataplasm of alum-curds, confined between folds of thin linen or muslin, may be applied during the night, or between the periods of using the injection. Should the conjunctiva be greatly extended by effusion, a leech may be applied to the inner surface of the lower lid, or the projecting portions be removed with a pair of scissors. The strength of the solution may be gradually increased to the proportion of eight grains of the nitrate to the ounce of distilled water. The calomel and antimony are to be occasionally administered at night, and a dose of castor oil, infusion of manna, or magnesia, in the morning. Mr. Ryall also recommends a tea-spoonful of oil of turpentine in a little syrup, if the bowels be much deranged. Under this treatment, the disease will generally yield in a few days, the discharge gradually assuming a lighter colour and a ropy consistence, till it entirely cease.

MISCELLANIES.

We omitted in our last number to state, that Dr. Andrew Hamersley of our city, was the successful candidate for the prize question given out by our State Medical Society on consumption. We congratulate Dr. Hammersley, on being the first victor in so good a cause in this state, and hope soon to see his labours subjected to our critical analysis. We shall do it justice.

In support of the view we entertain in relation to the gross impropriety of instituting a board of Trustees for our College, composed of men not medical, we are happy to quote the following extract from some interesting "Observations on the College of Physicians and Surgeons, &c. in a letter to James S. Stringham, M. D. &c. By DAVID HOSACK, M. D. 1811." Speaking of the arrangement by which medical men were made Trustees, Dr. H. observes; "This arrangement secures to the profession the chief direction of its own concerns, of which they are supposed to be the best judges, at the same time that it places the institution in common with the other Colleges of the State, under the superintending and paternal care of the Regents of the University, from whom its existence has been derived.

"Believing each profession to be the best guardian of its interests, I acknowledge that I also approved of this part of the plan proposed, *for I should as readily expect the clergy to place their concerns at the disposal of physicians and lawyers, as that we should delegate those of the medical profession to any other body, &c.*"

Before concluding the observations in which we have indulged respecting the affairs of the college, we think it due to ourselves to disclaim any party spirit whatever in favour of the Trustees, or against the professors. We have sided with the profession as such, and for its dignity we have contended; and it becomes all those who are prominent guardians of its rights, to beware lest their personal views interfere with their public duties. For ourselves we are devoted to the latter only, and we still hope to see the day when every member of the profession shall cherish an *esprit du corps*, and an independence of mind and singleness of heart, which shall reflect dignity and elevation to the *medical character of New-York.*

Rensselaer School in Troy, New-York.—The honorable Stephen Van Rensselaer, with a munificence and liberality seldom equalled, has established and endowed a school at the north end of Troy, for the purpose of instructing persons who may choose to devote themselves to the *application of science to the common purposes of life.* The principal object is, to qualify teachers for instructing the sons and daughters of farmers and mechanics, by lectures or otherwise, in the application of experimental chemistry, philosophy, and natural history, to agriculture, domestic economy, and manufactures. A suitable building has been provided, and funds furnished by the generous endower for the procuring the necessary apparatus, &c. The Rev. SAMUEL BLATCHFORD, D. D. is appointed *President*, O. L. HOLLEY, ESQ., and THEODORIC R. BECK, M. D. *Vice Presidents*, and DR. MOSES HALE, *Treasurer.* AMOS EATON, ESQ. of Troy, is appointed *Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, &c.* and LEWIS C. BECK, M. D. of Albany, *Professor of Botany, Mineralogy, Zoology, and Lecturer on the social duties peculiar to farmers and mechanics.* From the noble ardor with which the present undertaking has been commenced, and the well known zeal and distinguished talents of the officers appointed to watch over and conduct its progress, we augur most favourably of its ultimate and complete success. Our best wishes attend its prosperity.

Dr. JOHN D. GODMAN of Philadelphia, is preparing a splendid work on Natural History for the press.

A work on Geology, by Dr. VAN RENSSELAER of this city, is also in a state of great forwardness.

Dr. DELAFIELD of New-York, is preparing an edition of the excellent work of Travers on the eye, with notes, &c.

One of the late numbers of the Boston Medical Intelligencer announces the prospectus of a new medical journal about to be published in this city, under the title of *Analytic Register.* Whence did the editor obtain his information? If it be true, it has been most studiedly concealed from the profession here. "Shadows, clouds, and darkness rest upon it."

Inoculation with the venereal virus.—In consequence of the opinion promulgated by Dr. Jourdan of Paris, that the venereal disease is only a local affection, and that it has no influence on the constitution, (vid. Medical Repository, Vol. IV.) three young students inoculated themselves with syphilitic virus on the arm, and in the way practised in the variolus and vaccinal diseases. Horrid ulcers and swellings of the axilla were produced, which were treated with antiphlogistic means, until recourse was had to mercury. One of the individuals who persisted in the first mode of treatment, became at last so universally infected and injured, that despairing of his case, he resolved to put an end to his life by opening the crural artery, with a scalpel left in his instrument case.—Communicated by Dr. Devezo, physician to the King, to Dr. F. Pascalis, June 14th, 1824, Paris.

Medical commencement in the University of New-York.—At the annual commencement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New-York, held on Tuesday the 12th of April, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on the following (fifty) gentlemen, to whom the Regents had granted said honour. A charge was delivered to the graduates by the President of the College, WRIGHT POST, M. D. The exercises of the day were commenced and closed with prayer by the venerable President of Columbia College, Rev. Dr. HARRIS.

MAINE.

1. Benaiah Hanson, on Health.

VERMONT.

2 William C. Hickock, on Hydrocephalus.

CONNECTICUT.

3. Theodore L. Mason, on the Infantile Remittent Fever.

NEW-YORK.

4. Luke Barker, on Prolapsus Uteri.
5. Oliver Bronson, A. B. on the Influence of Man's Physical Structure on his character as an intelligent being and moral agent.
6. James T. Cromwell, on the absorption of Foreign substances into the blood vessels.
7. Joseph W. Duval, A. B. on Rheumatism.
8. Edwin Dey, on Indigestion.
9. Edwin A. Ely, on Animal Heat.
10. John C. Fanning on Dysentery.
11. John I. Graves, on the Liver.
12. Warmoldus S. Kuypers, on Dysentery.
13. James Macdonald, on Phrenitis.
14. Peter Parks, on Cynanche Trachealis.
15. James H. Rogers, on Enteritis.
16. Henry Rose, A. B. on the Effects of Ardent Spirits.

17. John I. Ruton, on Inflammation.
18. Marcus Sears, on the Liver.
19. James O. Smith, on Hydrothorax.
20. Ebenezer Storer, on Aneurism.
21. Junius Thompson, A. B. on Hydrocephalus.
22. Van Rensselaer Ten Broek, A. B. on Phthisis Pulmonalis.
23. Philip Ten Eyck, on Scrofula.
24. John Tiebout, jun. A. M. on Phlegmasia Dolens.
25. Philip Van Arsdale, on Opium.
26. Alexander F. Vache, on the Surgical Anatomy of the Groin.
27. Field Ver Meule, on Fever.
28. Edwin Webb, on Retention of Urine.

NEW-JERSEY.

29. John M. Cornelison, A. B. on Hooping Cough.
30. Cicero Hunt, on the Uterus.
31. John R. Hunt, on Fever.
32. Isaac James, on Capsicum.
33. Amos S. Miller, on Arthritis.

PENNSYLVANIA.

34. Bernard M'Neil, on Leucorrhæa.
35. Archibald B. Simpson, on the Temperaments.

VIRGINIA.

36. William H. Glascock, on Inflammation.

NORTH CAROLINA.

37. Frederick J. Cutlar, A. B. on Mania.
38. James B. Yellowley, on Menstruation.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

39. Trezevant de Graffenried, on Inflammation of the Liver.
40. Edmund J. Felder, A. B. on Dropsy.
41. Thomas W. Hutson, A. B. on Tetanus.
42. John S. Palmer, A. B. on Phrenitis.
43. Alexander Williams, A. B. on Dysentery.

GEORGIA.

44. Thomas B. Turner, on Hydrocephalus.
45. James M. Williams, on Laryngitis.

ALABAMA.

46. Stith F. Jones, on Phrenitis.
47. John A. Whetstone, on Trachitis.

LOUISIANIA.

48. Jacobus Moranus, de peste Tropica.

WEST INDIES.

49. George W. Codwise, A. B. on the Absorbents.

IRELAND.

50. Richard Charles, on Rheumatism.